

September 18, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Status of County-Interest Legislation

Now that the Legislature has adjourned, the Governor has until the end of September to act on over a thousand bills. The County has a position on fifty-one bills that have been sent to the Governor and he has acted on nine of them. Two bills were previously reported, **AB 2214 (Kelley)** which would prohibit the State Department of Health Services from issuing a license for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste (chaptered on September 12, 2002), and **SB 1809 (Machado)** which would create a new license category for Medical Laboratory Technicians and authorize them to perform and report the results of clinical laboratory tests (chaptered on September 3, 2002). We will continue to report as the Governor acts on the remaining forty-two County-interest bills.

County-supported AB 415 (Runner), which would mandate that law enforcement agencies provide the public with information about an abduction victim and suspect through the State Emergency Broadcast System, became effective on September 12, 2002 when Governor Davis signed the measure.

County-supported AB 1838 (Hertzberg), which would expand the definition of serious felonies, violent felonies, and first degree murder to include the use of certain weapons of mass destruction, became effective on September 16, 2002 when it was signed by the Governor.

County-supported AB 1875 (Nakano), which would amend the California Corporations Code to allow the dissolution of a corporation, which has not issued shares or commenced doing business, by simply filing a form with the Secretary of State, was signed by the Governor on September 11, 2002 and will become effective on January 1, 2003.

County-supported AB 2777 (Nation), which would permit boards of supervisors in Los Angeles, Marin and Santa Barbara counties to extend survivor benefits which are available to married couples to domestic partners of eligible employees, was signed by the Governor on September 6, 2002 and will become effective on January 1, 2003. The bill requires the parties to register their domestic partnership with the Secretary of State and also authorizes a county to require an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership be on file with the county for at least one year prior to the member's retirement or death.

County-supported SB 510 (Scott), which would make it a misdemeanor to knowingly possess weapons, replica weapons, parts of weapons, ammunition, and unauthorized tear gas weapons within the secured area of an airport, became effective on September 15, 2002 when it was signed by the Governor.

County-supported SB 1287 (Alarcon), which would increase penalties for acts of terrorism and provide that a perpetrator who employs a weapon of mass destruction would be subject to life in State prison without the possibility of parole if the activity causes the death of a human being, became effective on September 16, 2002 when it was signed by the Governor.

County-supported SB 2057 (O'Connell), which would make it a misdemeanor to file a false emergency report to a governmental agency or a felony if the report results in a serious injury or death of an individual, was signed by the Governor on September 13, 2002 and will become effective on January 1, 2003.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 1911 (Ortiz), as amended on August 27, 2002, would require the State Department of Mental Health, if sufficient funds are provided, to analyze the benefits of applying for a Federal Medicaid waiver or adopting a State option to provide home and community based services to severely mentally ill children who would otherwise be hospitalized.

The analysis would be developed in consultation with the State Department of Health Services, Department of Education and the Department of Social Services, county welfare and mental health departments, and advocates for children with mental health care needs. If this treatment option is determined to be cost effective, the State Department of Health Services would be authorized to submit a waiver application or adopt a State option.

According to the 2001 report of the Little Hoover Commission, "Young Hearts and Minds," home and community based treatment may help reduce State and county costs and improve care for children and youth who are severely emotionally disturbed. Because this option would provide an important supplement to services offered through the Schiff-Cardenas Programs, Children's System of Care Program, Family Preservation Program and other intensive mental health services for children and youth, the Department of Mental Health recommends that the County urge the Governor to sign SB 1911, and we concur. Support for SB 1911 is consistent with existing County policy to support increased funding for programs for emotionally disturbed minors who require intensive case management services. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will urge the Governor to sign SB 1911.**

Voting Modernization Board Meeting of September 16, 2002

The Voting Modernization Board (VMB) met on September 16, 2002 in Sacramento and approved a county-by-county list of applications for funding. Allocations will be made in segments with the VMB to start funding at the December 11, 2002 meeting. Fifty-two counties submitted applications for funding, with five counties requesting less than the formula-driven allocation. Six counties declined funds. Issues to be decided at future meetings include a process for disbursement of unallocated or unused funds. The County's cost for a touch screen voting system is estimated at \$107 million. The VMB's current allocation to the County, which is based upon a formula adopted at its July meeting, is \$49.6 million.

The VMB meeting also included a report by Connie McCormick, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, who was present at the recent election in Florida. Ms. McCormick reported that there were many problems traceable to new equipment and new laws. Other difficulties stemmed from the recent reapportionment leading many people to report to their former polling place.

Each Supervisor
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We will continue to keep you advised of any new developments.

DEJ:GK
ML:JL:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants